

“(g) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

“(1) affect any rights, defenses, or liabilities under section 107(a) of any person with respect to any transaction involving any material other than a recyclable material subject to subsection (a) of this section; or

“(2) relieve a plaintiff of the burden of proof that the elements of liability under section 107(a) are met under the particular circumstances of any transaction for which liability is alleged.”

Mr. LOTT. The successful efforts of Congressmen SHUSTER and BOEHLERT demonstrate again that the recycling issue can proceed on a bipartisan basis and that no serious opposition to its adoption exists.

Mr. DASCHLE. I am pleased to join majority leader in documenting that a compromise has been reached on the paper scrap issue. This compromise is especially important in light of the fact that during her recent testimony before the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, the EPA Administrator repeated her support for the recycling provision, a version of which collected 310 House cosponsors. The Administrator stated that should identical language to S. 2180 show up again this year, the administration “would continue to support it.”

And, in answer to a question, Administrator Browner stated at the hearing that EPA would oppose an exemption for PCB-contaminated paper or materials in excess of 50 parts per million. This issue is important not only to EPA, but also the Department of Justice and the environmental community. For that reason, I am delighted that a compromise was found.

Mr. LOTT. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Phil Morris of New Albany, MS, a long time friend and fellow Mississippian, who, as a traditional recycler, has struggled with the negative aspects of Superfund. Phil first brought this subject to my attention and, though our inability to pass Superfund reform last year led to sharp increases in his unintended Superfund liability, I commit to him and his fellow recyclers that Congress will act this year to ensure that such unreasonable, unfair and unintended actions under Superfund will cease. I again thank all supporters of this provision, especially the distinguished minority leader for supporting this attempt to restore equity and fairness where it has long been missing.

Mr. DASCHLE. As is the case with Senator LOTT, my constituents have suffered because Superfund has been inappropriately directed at them. On this first anniversary of the introduction of S. 2180, it is an appropriate time for all Senators to commit to act on this issue.

Mr. WARNER. As the original Senate sponsor of legislation designated to remove unintended Superfund hindrances to recycling, which I proposed for cor-

rection in the 103rd Congress, I applaud the majority and minority leaders for their continuing joint efforts. There is no more telling statement of need than to see partisan politics put aside in the greater public interest. Both Senators LOTT and DASCHLE have demonstrated outstanding leadership in helping to assure increased recycling that will occur when the Superfund burden, so inappropriately assessed, will finally be removed.

Mrs. LINCOLN. It was my privilege as a Member of the other body to introduce a bill in the 103rd Congress that would have eliminated much of the unintended Superfund hindrance that is limiting legitimate recycling.

Now as a Senator, I am proud to stand with the majority and minority leaders and the distinguished senior Senator from Virginia on this first anniversary of the introduction of S. 2180 to ensure Superfund relief for recycling will be addressed in this session of the 106th Congress.

THE FEDERAL ERRONEOUS RETIREMENT COVERAGE CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN, in introducing S. 1232, the Federal Erroneous Retirement Coverage Corrections Act. This legislation provides relief to those federal employees who were placed in an incorrect retirement system during the transition to the Federal Employees Retirement System from the Civil Service Retirement System in the mid-1980s.

As the ranking Democrat on the International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services Subcommittee, I am committed to correcting the erroneous pension problems facing anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 individuals. S. 1232 provides a reasonable solution in affording misclassified federal workers, former employees, retirees, and survivors with equitable relief from these retirement coverage errors. Moreover, the measure gives those affected a choice between corrected retirement coverage and the coverage the employee expected to receive, without disturbing Social Security coverage law.

Similar legislation was offered in 1998, and my colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, held a hearing on the measure at which officials from the Office of Personnel Management and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board testified in support of the bill.

I believe this measure addresses the concerns of federal workers who have been placed in the wrong retirement system. It offers a workable and reasonable solution, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. I

also wish to note that S. 1232 enjoys the support of the Office of Personnel Management and the two largest federal employee unions, the American Federation of Government Employees and the National Treasury Employees Union, that are encouraged by the bipartisan effort that went into crafting this bill.

GUN CRIME COMMITTED BY 18 TO 20 YEAR OLDS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week, Vice President GORE released a new study focusing on the connection between young adults and gun crimes. This report, jointly prepared by the Departments of Treasury and Justice, documents an alarmingly high rate of gun violence among 18 to 20 year olds.

The report shows that while 18, 19, and 20 years olds make up only 4 percent of the U.S. population, they commit an astounding 24 percent of gun murders in our country. In addition, the report shows that 18 year olds commit 35 percent more gun murders than 21 year olds; double the gun murders of 24 year olds; triple the gun murders of 28 year olds; and four times the gun murders of 30 year olds.

There are several loopholes in our current firearms laws that permit young people access to handguns and other deadly weapons. We must close those loopholes, especially for the 18 to 20 year olds, who contribute to such a high percentage of gun crimes. One of those loopholes allows 18 to 20 year olds, minors, to purchase handguns from unlicensed dealers, private collectors or friends, even though it would be illegal for them to purchase the same handgun from a federally licensed dealer.

There are also additional loopholes in federal law that permit 18 to 20 year olds to purchase semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices from anyone willing to sell them. These weapons, such as AK-47s and Uzis, and the 50 rounds per minute clips that accompany them, are not the type of weapons needed for hunting, they are the type needed for killing, and that is what they are too often used for.

There is strong precedent for imposing minimum age requirements for engaging in dangerous activities. Congress and the states worked together in the past to minimize public safety concerns by ensuring that states raised their legal drinking ages to 21. This was in response to evidence that young adults were involved in proportionately far more driving accidents while intoxicated. Increasing the age requirement for drinking alcohol, reduced automobile accidents dramatically. And, in the first year after Michigan raised its drinking age from 18 to 21, there was a 21 percent decline in alcohol related deaths among drivers age 18 to 20.